

Please **amend** the claims as follows:

7. (Amended) A method for detecting a nucleic acid in a biological sample, wherein the nucleic acid encodes a peptide capable of specifically binding to a Lym-1 antibody, the method comprising the following steps, in the following order:

D₁ (a) contacting the sample with an oligonucleotide primer pair capable of amplifying a subsequence of an MHC nucleic acid, which subsequence encodes a polypeptide having a sequence comprising R₁ - R₂ - R₃ - R₄ - R₅ - R₆ - R₇ - R₈ - R₉ - R₁₀ - R₁₁ - R₁₂ - R₁₃ - R₁₄ - R₁₅ - R₁₆, wherein R₁ is Gln, Lys, or Arg; R₂ is Arg; R₃ and R₄ are members independently selected from the group consisting of all amino acids; R₅ is Ala, Glu, Asp, Val, Leu or Ile; R₆ and R₇ are members independently selected from the group consisting of all amino acids; R₈ is Thr; R₉, R₁₀, R₁₁, R₁₂, R₁₃, R₁₄, and R₁₅ are members independently selected from the group consisting of all amino acids; and, R₁₆ is Val (SEQ ID NO:2),

(b) amplifying the nucleic acid; and

(c) detecting the amplified nucleic acid.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the MHC nucleic acid is HLA-DR 10.

D₂ 15. (Amended) A kit for detecting a nucleic acid in a biological sample, wherein the nucleic acid encodes a peptide capable of specifically binding to a Lym-1 antibody, comprising an oligonucleotide primer pair capable of amplifying a subsequence of an MHC gene or gene product, which subsequence encodes a polypeptide comprising a peptide having a sequence comprising R₁ - R₂ - R₃ - R₄ - R₅ - R₆ - R₇ - R₈ - R₉ - R₁₀ - R₁₁ - R₁₂ - R₁₃ - R₁₄ - R₁₅ - R₁₆, wherein R₁ is Gln, Lys, or Arg; R₂ is Arg; R₃ and R₄ are members independently selected from the group consisting of all amino acids; R₅ is Ala, Glu, Asp, Val, Leu or Ile; R₆ and R₇ are members independently selected from the group consisting of all amino acids; R₈ is Thr; R₉, R₁₀, R₁₁, R₁₂, R₁₃, R₁₄, and R₁₅ are members

D₂
independently selected from the group consisting of all amino acids; and, R₁₆ is Val (SEQ ID NO:2).

16. (Amended) The kit of claim 15, wherein the MHC nucleic acid is HLA-DR 10.

Please **add** the following new claims:

35. (New) A method for detecting a nucleic acid in a biological sample, wherein the nucleic acid encodes a peptide capable of specifically binding to a Lym-1 antibody, the method comprising the following steps:

D₃
(a) contacting the sample with an oligonucleotide primer pair capable of amplifying a subsequence of an MHC nucleic acid, which subsequence encodes a polypeptide having a sequence consisting essentially of R₁ - R₂ - R₃ - R₄ - R₅ - R₆ - R₇ - R₈ - R₉ - R₁₀ - R₁₁ - R₁₂ - R₁₃ - R₁₄ - R₁₅ - R₁₆, wherein R₁ is Gln, Lys, or Arg; R₂ is Arg; R₃ and R₄ are members independently selected from the group consisting of all amino acids; R₅ is Ala, Glu, Asp, Val, Leu or Ile; R₆ and R₇ are members independently selected from the group consisting of all amino acids; R₈ is Thr; R₉, R₁₀, R₁₁, R₁₂, R₁₃, R₁₄, and R₁₅ are members independently selected from the group consisting of all amino acids; and, R₁₆ is Val (SEQ ID NO:2),

(b) amplifying the nucleic acid; and

(c) detecting the amplified nucleic acid.

36. (New) A method of claim 35, wherein the MHC nucleic acid is HLA-DR 10.

37. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the subsequence encodes a peptide wherein R₁ is Gln, Lys, or Arg; R₂ is Arg; R₃ is Arg; R₄ is Ala; R₅ is Ala; R₆ is Val; R₇ is Asp; R₈ is Thr; R₉ is Tyr; R₁₀ is Cys; R₁₁ is Arg; R₁₂ is His; R₁₃ is Asn; R₁₄ is Tyr; R₁₅ is Gly, and R₁₆ is Val (SEQ ID NO:2).

38. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the biological sample comprises a B cell.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the B cell is a B lymphocytic non-Hodgkin's lymphoma cell.

40. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the non-Hodgkin's lymphoma cell is selected from the group consisting of a B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia/small lymphocytic lymphoma (B-CCL/SLL) cell, a lymphoplasmacytoid lymphoma (LPL) cell, a follicular lymphoma (FL) cell, a mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue lymphoma (MALTL) cell, a splenic lymphoma with villous lymphocytes (SLVL) cell and a mantle cell lymphoma cell.

41. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the biological sample is a body fluid sample or a biopsy sample.

42. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the body fluid sample is a blood sample.

43. (New) A kit for detecting a nucleic acid in a biological sample, wherein the nucleic acid encodes a peptide capable of specifically binding to a Lym-1 antibody, comprising an oligonucleotide primer pair capable of amplifying a subsequence of an MHC gene or gene product, which subsequence encodes a polypeptide consisting essentially of a sequence comprising R₁ - R₂ - R₃ - R₄ - R₅ - R₆ - R₇ - R₈ - R₉ - R₁₀ - R₁₁ - R₁₂ - R₁₃ - R₁₄ - R₁₅ - R₁₆, wherein R₁ is Gln, Lys, or Arg; R₂ is Arg; R₃ and R₄ are members independently selected from the group consisting of all amino acids; R₅ is Ala, Glu, Asp, Val, Leu or Ile; R₆ and R₇ are members independently selected from the group consisting of all amino acids; R₈ is Thr; R₉, R₁₀, R₁₁, R₁₂, R₁₃, R₁₄, and R₁₅ are members

independently selected from the group consisting of all amino acids; and, R₁₆ is Val (SEQ ID NO:2).

D₃ 44. (New) The kit of claim 43, wherein the MHC nucleic acid is HLA-DR 10.

45. (New) The kit of claim 43, wherein R₁ is Gln, Lys, or Arg; R₂ is Arg; R₃ is Arg; R₄ is Ala; R₅ is Ala; R₆ is Val; R₇ is Asp; R₈ is Thr; R₉ is Tyr; R₁₀ is Cys; R₁₁ is Arg; R₁₂ is His; R₁₃ is Asn; R₁₄ is Tyr; R₁₅ is Gly, and R₁₆ is Val (SEQ ID NO:2).

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 7-18 and 35-45 are pending and under examination, with claims 19-24 having been cancelled herein and claims 35-45 added.